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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Agricultural Economics Washington

F.S. CF-5

April 7, 1925.

FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

MARKETING CITRUS FRUIT IN SCANDINAVIA

Stockholm

Imports of oranges into Sweden during 1924 were equivalent to 231,000 boxes of 78 pounds, against 246,000 boxes in 1923. Fruit from Italy, Spain and the United States shares the market. While American cranges enjoy the best reputation for quality, the Messina product enjoys a more popular sale than either American or Spanish oranges because of its relatively good quality and low price. Stockholm agents usually buy Italian oranges on firm order, there being little or no attention given to sales by auction.

During the winter months a brand of Florida oranges noted for its quality is found in Stockholm and other north European cities. This brand always meets a demand among the exclusive trade. With freight from Mediterranean ports to Stockholm at about 85 cents per box and only 35 cents to Liverpool or Hamburg, it is easier for American oranges to compete in Scandinavia than in the countries to the South. Even so, it is evident that American oranges must meet very severe competition from southern Europe, except possibly during the summer when California eranges might be taken in limited quantities. Prices in mid-January, when competition is keenest, were almost 15 cents each, retail, for 175's.

Very few grapefruit are used in Stockholm and all those consumed are ordered from Lendon in small lots. The trade is confined almost exclusively to the hotels and restaurants, where, it is said, the fruit is eaten practically only by the American and British guests. The small quantities appearing in the leading fruit shops earry high prices, 64 size frequently selling at about 30 cents each. Citrus prices in Stockholm are undoubtedly too high to encourage widespread consumption. All fruit is held at high levels in the retail shops, extra fancy Winesaps, for instance, bringing about 18 cents per pound.

Copenhagen

Oranges from Sicily command the greatest demand in Copenhagen and readily bring a premium over Spanish fruit. It is apparently easier, now-ever, to secure Spanish oranges on consignment, as they are very much in evidence and are sold in quantity over the auctions. Prices are similar to those ruling in other western European markets, so that American oranges are practically shut out except for specialties and in the summer when California Valencias find a market there.

The demand for grapefruit is very limited, although it may be seen in many retail fruit stores. It is ordered from Lenden at the rate of a few dozen cases weekly.

Other Scandinavian Cities

A preference for Italian oranges is also to be noted in all the other Seandinavian cities. Importations of Spanish fruit have been relatively small. The result has been a very slow development of the auction system of marketing, most of the oranges being imported directly by the dealers as se-called "Colonial" produce. The same factors which practically exclude American citrus fruit from Copenhagen and Steckholm during most of the year operate in Jothenburg, Oslo (Christiania) and Bergen.

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